i. Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Development and improvement of roads in Rajasthan

†727. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposals of Rajasthan for 7 works worth Rs. 28.71 crores for the development and improvement of roads of International and economic importance are pending for approval; and

(b) if so, by when these proposals are likely to be approved and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) Detailed estimates for 5 works amounting to Rs. 29.42 crores, which were approved in principle, for development and improvement under the scheme of Inter State Connectivity and Economic Importance have been received from the Government of Rajasthan, and out of the these, two estimates amounting to Rs. 7.82 crores have been approved. Other three proposals are likely to be sanctioned during 2009-10.

Allotment of fund for Angul Sukinda Highway

728. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal and allotment of fund to complete Angul Sukinda Highway and Panikoili Lalasipada National Highway this year as these two roads are carrying mining ore to the port Head and Industries; and

(b) whether there could be any proposal of having a bypass road in Panikoili Lalasipada N.H. from Ragal Chhaka to Panikoili *via* Korai and also this NH could be extended to Dhamaroport *via* Navigaya Jajpur and Aradikhatra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) to (b) Angul is connected with Sukinda *via* Banarpal, Ballahar Chhak, Pitri Junction. Part of Angul-Sukinda road falls on Chandikhole-Dhubri-Tachar section of NH-200, which is being taken up for 4-laning under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) phase III on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) toll mode. Total project cost is Rs. 593.38 crore. Panikoili-Lahunipada (not Lalasipada) section of National Highway falls on Panikoili-Rimuli-Roxy-Rajamunda stretch on NH-215, which is being taken up for 4-lane/2-lane with paved shoulder under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) phase III on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) toll mode. Total project cost is Rs. 1372.0 crore. Presently, there is no proposal either for bypass at Panikoili connecting Ragal Chhaka *via* Korai or extension of NH-215 to Dhamaroport *via* Navigaya Jajpur and Aradikhatra.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.